

APPENDIX A

Clean version of claims as amended herein

1. **(Currently amended)** A protein as defined in (a) or (b):
 - (a) a protein comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2; and
 - (b) a protein comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 with one or several amino acids deleted, replaced, or added, and having an activity of binding rabconnectin-3 and a GDP/GTP exchange protein.
2. **(Currently amended)** The protein of claim 1, which has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2.
3. **(Currently amended)** A polynucleotide that encodes a protein as defined in claim 1.
4. **(Currently amended)** The polynucleotide of claim 3, comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1.
5. **(Currently amended)** A polynucleotide as defined in (a) or (b):
 - (a) a polynucleotide comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1; and
 - (b) a polynucleotide which hybridizes with a polynucleotide comprising a nucleotide sequence that is complementary to the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 under a stringent condition, and encodes a protein having an activity of binding rabconnectin-3 and a GDP/GTP exchange protein.
6. **(Currently amended)** A polynucleotide as defined in (a) or (b):
 - (a) a polynucleotide comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1; and
 - (b) a polynucleotide comprising a nucleotide sequence whose homology to the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 is 80% or higher and encoding a protein having an activity of binding rabconnectin-3 and a GDP/GTP exchange protein.

7. **(Currently amended)** A recombinant vector comprising a polynucleotide as defined in any one of claims 3 to 6.

8. **(Currently amended)** A transformant obtained by transforming a host with a polynucleotide as defined in any one of claims 3 to 6.

9. **(Currently amended)** A method of producing a protein having an activity of binding rabconnectin-3 and a GDP/GTP exchange protein, comprising:

culturing a transformant as defined in claim 8 in a culture; and

collecting, from the culture, a protein having an activity of binding rabconnectin-3 and the GDP/GTP exchange protein.

10. **(Canceled)**

11. **(Currently amended)** A method of analyzing a first polynucleotide as defined in any one of claims 3 to 6, comprising hybridizing a probe or a primer with the first polynucleotide, wherein the probe or primer includes a second polynucleotide having at least 15 nucleotides complementary to the first polynucleotide.

12. **(Currently amended)** The analyzing method of claim 11, wherein the first polynucleotide is present in a tissue or a cell.

13. **(Currently amended)** A method of analyzing a first polynucleotide encoding a protein as defined in claim 1 or 2, comprising hybridizing a probe or a primer with the first polynucleotide, wherein the probe or primer includes a second polynucleotide having at least 15 nucleotides complementary to the first polynucleotide.

14. **(Currently amended)** The analyzing method of claim 13, wherein the first polynucleotide is present in a tissue or a cell.

15. **(Currently amended)** A method comprising amplifying an mRNA in a tissue or a cell by an RT-PCR method with a primer that includes a polynucleotide having at least 15 nucleotides complementary to a polynucleotide as defined in any one of claims 3 to 6.
16. **(Currently amended)** An antisense polynucleotide which hybridizes with an mRNA encoding a protein as defined in claim 1 or 2.
17. **(Currently amended)** A ribozyme for cutting an mRNA encoding a protein as defined in claim 1 or 2.
18. **(Currently amended)** A double-stranded RNA for cutting an mRNA encoding a protein as defined in claim 1 or 2 by RNA interference.
19. **(Currently amended)** An antibody against a protein as defined in claim 1 or 2.
20. **(Currently amended)** A method of immunohistologically analyzing a protein as defined in claim 1 or 2, comprising contacting the protein with an antibody as defined in claim 19.
21. **(Currently amended)** The method of claim 20, further comprising determining the location of the protein.
22. **(Currently amended)** The method of claim 20, further comprising determining the amount of expression of the protein.
23. **(Currently amended)** A method of screening for a material that promotes or inhibits binding between a protein as defined in claim 1 or 2 or a heterogeneous homologous protein thereof, and rabconnectin-3, comprising the steps of:
 contacting a protein as defined in claim 1 or 2 or a heterogeneous homologous protein thereof with rabconnectin-3 in the presence and absence of candidate materials, and
 selecting a material which increases or decreases binding between the protein and rabconnectin-3.

24. **(Currently amended)** A method of screening for a material that promotes or inhibits binding between a protein as defined in claim 1 or 2 or a heterogeneous homologous protein thereof, and a Rab 3 GDP/GTP exchange protein, comprising the steps of:

contacting a protein as defined in claim 1 or 2 or a heterogeneous homologous protein thereof with Rab3 GDP/GTP exchange protein in the presence and absence of candidate materials, and

selecting a material which increases or decreases binding between the protein and Rab3 GDP/GTP exchange protein.

25. **(New)** A polynucleotide that encodes a protein as defined in claim 2.

26. **(New)** A recombinant vector comprising a polynucleotide as defined in claim 25.

27. **(New)** A transformant obtained by transforming a host with a polynucleotide as defined in claim 25.

28. **(New)** A method of producing a protein having an activity of binding rabconnectin-3 and a GDP/GTP exchange protein, comprising:

culturing a transformant as defined in claim 27 in a culture; and

collecting, from the culture, a protein having an activity of binding rabconnectin-3 and the GDP/GTP exchange protein.

29. **(New)** A method of analyzing a first polynucleotide as defined in claim 25, comprising hybridizing a probe or a primer with the first polynucleotide, wherein the probe or primer includes a second polynucleotide having at least 15 nucleotides complementary to the first polynucleotide.

30. **(New)** The analyzing method of claim 11, wherein the first polynucleotide is present in a tissue or a cell.

31. (New) A method comprising amplifying an mRNA in a tissue or a cell by an RT-PCR method with a primer that includes a polynucleotide having at least 15 nucleotides complementary to a polynucleotide as defined in claim 25.